

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-5, 10-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20, 22-23, 26 and 28-29 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 9-11, 15, 26 and 30-32 have been amended to more definitely set forth the invention and obviate the rejections. Support for the amendments of claim 1 can be found in original claim 2. The present amendment is deemed not to add new matter. Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 12, 16, 19, 21, 24-25, 27 and 30-32 remain in the application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 3-9, 12-14, 16-19, 21-25 and 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi, et al. (USPAP 2002/002160 A1).

Base claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. In particular, claim 1 has been amended herein to now claim that the ``revolution prevention member'' has ``a guide member arranged at a sidewall of a float body or at an outer peripheral portion of the float body''. As stated by the Examiner on page 4 of the instant Office Action, ``[n]o art of record teaches a float having a revolution prevention member further comprising a guide member''.

Further, independent claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled, as well as all claims dependent thereon.

Thus, in view of the amendments to claim 1 made herein, it is believed that claim 1, as well as all claims now dependent thereon, are now allowable over the cited prior art. As such, it is believed that the Examiner would now be justified in no longer

maintaining the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

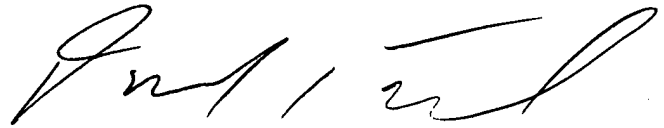
Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection of claims 2, 10, 11, 15, 20 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 2 has been cancelled, and base claim 1 has now been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 2. Further, claims 10-11, 15 and 26 have been cancelled, as now being redundant. In view of such amendments, it is believed that the objection is now moot. Withdrawal of the objection is accordingly respectfully requested.

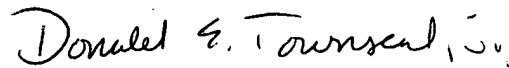
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed at the present time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWNSEND & BANTA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend', with a stylized, flowing script.

Donald E. Townsend
Reg. No. 22,069

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donald E. Townsend, Jr.', with a stylized, flowing script.

Donald E. Townsend, Jr.
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Date: March 30, 2004

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